

Appl. No. 09/649,528

Amdt. Dated 18 March 2005

Reply to Office action of 17 February 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application as amended is requested. By this amendment, claims 1, 11, and 18 have been canceled, claims 3, 5-7, 13, 15, and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 8, 10, 11, 16, and 18 remain in the application.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3, 5, 7-8, 10-11, 13, 15-16, 18, AND 20 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-8, 10-11, 13, 15-16, 18, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Furuya et al. (JP06-111838).

The limitations of allowed claim 6 and all intervening claims have been placed in amended claim 1; therefore, claim 1 is now believed to be allowable. Claims 8 and 10 are believed allowable since they depend from claim 1 and for the limitations they add to claim 1.

The limitations of allowed claim 14 and all intervening claims have been placed in amended claim 11; therefore, claim 11 is now believed to be allowable. Claim 16 is believed allowable since it depends from claim 11 and for the limitations it adds to claim 11.

The limitations of allowed claim 21 and all intervening claims have been placed in amended claim 18; therefore, claim 18 is now believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, 7-8, 10-11, 13, 15-16, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102 has been overcome by the amendment and remarks.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 4, 9, AND 17 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4, 9, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Furuya et al. in view of Ghosh et al. (US 5,961,932).

Claims 4, 9, and 17 have been cancelled.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection of claims 4, 9, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103 has been overcome by the amendment and remarks.

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ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Claims 6, 14, and 21 have been identified as being allowable. The limitations of these claims have been incorporated into the independent claims 1, 11, and 18, respectively, from which they depended, and have been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

The remaining cited references have been reviewed and are not believed to affect the patentability of the claims as amended.

No amendment made herein was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated; and no amendment made herein was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

In view of Applicant's amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Examiner's rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the application, as amended, is now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is therefore earnestly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the Applicants attorneys at 480-385-5060.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 502,091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

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